

Message Text

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61
ACTION EUR-12

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R 271736Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE 1887
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMCONSUL LUANDA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJ: POLITICAL PARTY AND ELECTORAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. START OF OFFICIAL CAMPAIGN DELAYED: ELECTORAL LAW WAS AMENDED IN SESSION OF COUNCIL OF STATE FEB. 26 TO DELAY START OF OFFICIAL OPENING OF ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN FROM MARCH 3 TO MARCH 20. AS PREVIOUSLY DECRRRED, CAMPAIGN WILL FINISH APRIL 10, TWO DAYS BEFORE ELECTION DAY. GOP GAVE NO OFFICIAL REASON FOR DELAY.

2. WE UNDERSTAND FROM TALKS WITH PPD AND CDS LEADERS THAT THESE PARTIES FAVOR DELAY FOR TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL REASONS. THEY WOULD HAVE HAD DIFFICULTY MEETING

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ORIGINAL MARCH 3 DEADLINE FOR PRESENTATION OF REQUIRED

DOCUMENTATION FOR THEIR CANDIDATES, MANY OF WHOM CHOSEN IN LAST FEW DAYS. THEY ALSO LACK FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR A LONG CAMPAIGN, AND ARE HAPPY THAT REDUCED OFFICIAL CAMPAIGN PERIOD WILL LESSEN BURDEN ON THEIR STRAINED BUDGETS. THEY POINT OUT THAT INFORMAL CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN UNDER WAY FOR MONTHS ANYWAY. THEY SEE SOME POLITICAL BENEFIT FOR AFM FROM DELAY, HOWEVER. DELAY HAS SIDEFFECT OF GIVING ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT MORE TIME TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH POLITICAL PARTIES OVER FORM AFM INSTITUTIONALIZATION WILL TAKE. AFM WOULD LIKE TO AGREE ON PLATFORM OF UNDERSTANDING BEFORE OFFICIAL CAMPAIGN STARTS IN ORDER TO REMOVE INSTITUTIONALIZATION ISSUES FROM CAMPAIGN.

3. PPD HARASSED AGAIN: ANOTHER PPD SESSION WAS INTERRUPTED FEB. 26 BY UNIDENTIFIED CROWD OF AGITATORS. (AN EMBASSY EMPLOYEE WHO IS MEMBER OF PPD CLAIMS THAT HARRASSMENT WORK OF LOCAL COMMUNISTS, AS WELL AS MDP/CDE AND ASSORTED FAR LEFTISTS.) RALLY IN TOWN OF SACAVEN WAS INFILTRATED BY LEFTISTS INTO MEETING HALL. AS MEETING GOT UNDERWAY LEFTISTS GRABBED MICROPHONE AND BROUGHT SESSION TO END. CROWD OUTSIDE MEETING HALL PREVENTED THOSE ATTENDING MEETING FROM LEAVING FOR SEVERAL HOURS. COPCON FORCES ARRIVED AFTER CALL FROM MAGALHAES MOTA PPD LEADER AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO. PPD NATIONAL POLITICAL COMMISSION HAS ISSUED SCATHING COMMUNIQUE BLASTING "STALINISTS" FOR USE OF HITLER-TYPE MEASURES DESIGNED TO SABOTAGE ELECTORAL PROCESS AND BRING ABOUT DICTATORSHIP. PPD INDIRECTLY, BUT PLINLY, CRITICIZES COPCON FOR "PASSIVITY" AND REPEATED FAILURE TO PREVENT HARASSEMENT OF LEGAL RALLIES. THIS IS THIRD PPD RALLY DURING THE LAST FEW DAYS TO BE SUBJECTED TO VIOLENT HARASSMENT.

4. PCP YOUTH GROUP CREATED: CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF COMMUNIST PARTY ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO CREATE IN SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME A PARTY YOUTH ORGANIZATION. YOUNG WORKERS ALREADY IN PARTY WERE GIVEN TASK OF CREATING AUTONOMOUS ORGANIZATION IN WHICH YOUNG COMMUNISTS CAN FIGHT FOR SPECIFIC PROBLEMS OF CONCERN TO YOUTH. PCP ALREADY HAS A COMMUNIST STUDENT UNION (UNIAO DE ESTUDANTES COMUNISTAS-UEC) AND A FRONT GROUP OF YOUNG WORKERS KNOWN AS MOVEMENT OF YOUNG WORKERS (MOVIMENTO DE JUVENTUDE TRABALHADORES-MJT). MOTIVATION FOR CREATION OF YET ANOTHER COMMUNIST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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YOUTH ORGANIZATION IS NOT CLEAR YET.

5. I RAISED ISSUE OF PPD HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE AT PDC RALLY (LISBON 1062) TODAY WITH CABINET MEMBER ALMEIDA SANTOS. POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT SUCH EVENTS AND EVIDENT LACK POLICE PROTECTION WERE CAUSING SERIOUS CONCERN. WILL TAKE SAME LINE WITH OTHER GOP FIGURES AS OPPORTUNITY ARISES.
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